

PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE DIVISION[645]

Adopted and Filed Emergency

Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code section 147.76, the Board of Behavioral Science hereby amends Chapter 31, “Licensure of Marital and Family Therapists and Mental Health Counselors,” Iowa Administrative Code.

These amendments update licensure requirements for mental health counselors and marital and family therapists.

Amendments to Chapter 31 were published in the January 14, 2009, Iowa Administrative Bulletin as **ARC 7476B**. On February 6, 2009, the Administrative Rules Review Committee delayed for 70 days the amendments in Items 5 to 9 of **ARC 7476B** and directed the Board to work with concerned parties. The Board met with concerned parties and a resolution was reached.

In compliance with Iowa Code section 17A.4(3), the Board finds that notice and public participation are unnecessary because the amendments have already been through the process and these further amendments were agreed upon by all parties.

The Board also finds, pursuant to Iowa Code section 17A.5(2)“b”(2), that the normal effective date of the amendments should be waived and these amendments should be made effective April 30, 2009, when the 70-day delay expires, as it confers a benefit on affected parties for the amendments to become effective upon expiration of the delay.

The Board of Behavioral Science adopted these amendments on March 10, 2009.

These amendments will become effective on April 30, 2009.

These amendments are intended to implement Iowa Code chapters 21, 147, 154D and 272C.

The following amendments are adopted.

ITEM 1. Amend subrule 31.4(1) as follows:

31.4(1) Accredited program. Applicants must present with the application an official transcript verifying completion of a master’s degree of 60 semester hours (or 80 quarter hours or equivalent) or a doctoral degree in marital and family therapy from a program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE) from a college or university accredited by an agency recognized by the United States Department of Education. Applicants who entered a program of study prior to July 1, ~~2008~~ 2010, must present with the application an official transcript verifying completion of a master’s degree of 45 semester hours or the equivalent; or

ITEM 2. Amend subrule **31.4(2)**, introductory paragraph, as follows:

31.4(2) Content-equivalent program. Applicants must present an official transcript verifying completion of a master’s degree of 60 semester hours (or 80 quarter hours or equivalent) or a doctoral degree in a mental health, behavioral science, or a counseling-related field from a college or university accredited by an agency recognized by the United States Department of Education, which is content-equivalent to a graduate degree in marital and family therapy. Applicants who entered a program of study prior to July 1, ~~2008~~ 2010, must present with the application an official transcript verifying completion of a master’s degree of 45 semester hours or the equivalent. After March 31, 2009, graduates from non-COAMFTE-accredited marital and family therapy programs shall provide an equivalency evaluation of their educational credentials by the Center for Credentialing and Education, Inc. (CCE), Web site <http://cce-global.org>. The professional curriculum must be equivalent to that stated in these rules. Applicants shall bear the expense of the curriculum evaluation. In order to qualify as a “content-equivalent” degree, a graduate transcript must document:

ITEM 3. Rescind paragraphs **31.5(1)“c”** to **“e”** and adopt the following **new** paragraphs in lieu thereof:

c. Include successful completion of 3,000 hours of marital and family therapy that shall include at least 1,500 hours of direct client contact and 200 hours of clinical supervision. Applicants who entered a program of study prior to July 1, 2010, shall include successful completion of 200 hours of clinical

supervision concurrent with 1,000 hours of marital and family therapy conducted in person with couples, families and individuals;

- d. Include at least 100 of the 200 hours of clinical supervision as individual supervision;
- e. Have 50 percent (100 hours) of the clinical supervision conducted in person; and

ITEM 4. Amend subrule 31.6(1) as follows:

31.6(1) Accredited program. Applicants must present with the application an official transcript verifying completion of a master's degree of 60 semester hours (or equivalent quarter hours) or a doctoral degree in counseling with emphasis in mental health counseling from a mental health counseling program accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) from a college or university accredited by an agency recognized by the United States Department of Education. Applicants who entered a program of study prior to July 1, ~~2008~~ 2010, must present with the application an official transcript verifying completion of a master's degree of 45 semester hours or the equivalent; or

ITEM 5. Amend subrule **31.6(2)**, introductory paragraph, as follows:

31.6(2) Content-equivalent program. Applicants must present an official transcript verifying completion of a master's degree or a doctoral degree from a college or university accredited by an agency recognized by the United States Department of Education which is content-equivalent to a master's degree in counseling with emphasis in mental health counseling. Applicants who entered a program of study prior to July 1, ~~2008~~ 2010, must present with the application an official transcript verifying completion of a master's degree of 45 semester hours or the equivalent. After March 31, 2009, graduates from non-CACREP-accredited mental health counseling programs shall provide an equivalency evaluation of their educational credentials by the Center for Credentialing and Education, Inc. (CCE), Web site <http://cce-global.org>. The professional curriculum must be equivalent to that stated in these rules. Applicants shall bear the expense of the curriculum evaluation. The degree will be considered as "content-equivalent" if it includes 60 semester hours (or equivalent quarter hours) and successful completion of graduate-level coursework in each of the following areas:

ITEM 6. Rescind paragraphs **31.7(1)“c”** to **“e”** and adopt the following **new** paragraphs in lieu thereof:

- c. Include successful completion of at least 3,000 hours of mental health counseling that shall include at least 1,500 hours of direct client contact and 200 hours of clinical supervision. Applicants who entered a program of study prior to July 1, 2010, shall include successful completion of 200 hours of clinical supervision concurrent with 1,000 hours of mental health counseling conducted in person with couples, families and individuals;
- d. Include at least 100 of the 200 hours of supervision as individual supervision;
- e. Include 50 percent (100 hours) of all clinical supervision in person; and

ITEM 7. Amend rule 645—31.8(154D) as follows:

645—31.8(154D) Licensure by endorsement. An applicant who has been a licensed marriage and family therapist or mental health counselor under the laws of another jurisdiction may file an application for licensure by endorsement with the board office. The board may receive by endorsement any applicant from the District of Columbia or another state, territory, province or foreign country who:

1. to 3. No change.

4. Provides official transcripts sent directly from the school to the board verifying completion of a master's degree of 45 hours or equivalent if the applicant entered a program of study prior to July 1, ~~2008~~ 2010, or verifying completion of a master's degree of 60 hours or equivalent if the applicant entered a program of study on or after July 1, ~~2008~~ 2010, or the appropriate doctoral degree. After March 31, 2009, graduates from a non-CACREP-accredited mental health counselor program or a non-COAMFTE-accredited marital and family therapy program shall provide an equivalency evaluation of their educational credentials by the Center for Credentialing and Education, Inc. (CCE), Web site <http://cce-global.org>. The professional curriculum must be equivalent to that stated in these rules. Applicants shall bear the expense of the curriculum evaluation;

5. to 7. No change.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: For replacement pages for IAC, see IAC Supplement 4/8/09.